Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 1, 9, 13, and 19. The currently pending claims after amendment are listed below.

1   1.   (Currently Amended)   A computer-implemented method for controlling an auction event
2   between a plurality of computer systems on a multi-user and interactive network, the method
3   comprising the steps of:
4   setting at least one membership duration parameter value for use in precluding a submitted bid
5   of one or more bidders ~~by~~ responsive to a seller identifying the at least one membership duration
6   parameter value when registering for an auction at one computer system, said at least one membership
7   duration parameter value specifying a cut-off time for use in automatically precluding bids from
8   selective bidders; and,
9   automatically precluding the submitted bid of the one or more bidders at other computer
10   systems on the network during the auction event if the one or more ~~bidders~~ bidders' respective actual
11   membership duration ~~is less than~~ does not antedate the cut-off time specified by the at least one
12   membership duration parameter value.

1   2.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 1 wherein a seller sets the at least one
2   membership duration parameter value by an item registration mechanism when registering the auction
3   at the one computer system.

1   3.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 2 wherein the setting of the at least one
2   membership duration parameter value and the registering for an auction event is achieved by allowing
3   the seller to use a user interface.

1   4.   (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of configuring a
2   bid monitoring mechanism with the at least one membership duration parameter value.

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5 - 6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein the at least one membership duration parameter value is set by the item registration mechanism for configuring the bid monitoring mechanism so that submitted bid of the one or more bidders will be precluded if the bid monitoring mechanism identifies if the one or more bidders actual membership duration is less than the at least one membership duration parameter value.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computer system adapted for use in a network, the computer system comprising:

a memory containing an item registration application which accepts seller input regarding an auction, and a bid monitoring application, the bid monitoring application is configurable by the seller input; and,

a processor which performs operations comprising:

setting at least one membership duration parameter value for use in precluding submitted bids of one or more bidders ~~by~~ responsive to a seller identifying the at least one membership duration parameter value when registering for the auction using the item registration application, said at least one membership duration parameter value specifying a cut-off time for use in automatically precluding bids from selective bidders; and,

automatically precluding one or more bids from the one or more bidders at another computer system on the network during the auction event if the one or more ~~bidders~~ bidders' respective actual membership duration ~~is less than~~ does not antedate the cut-off time specified by the at least one membership duration parameter value.

10 - 12. (Cancelled)

1 13.   (Currently Amended)   A computer program product adapted to facilitate exclusion of bids
2 automatically prior to bids being entered during an online auction on a computer network, the
3 computer program product comprising:

4   a medium readable by a computer, the computer readable medium having a computer program
5 code to:

6   allow a seller to set at least one membership duration parameter value for use in precluding
7 bids of one or more bidders by the seller identifying the at least one membership duration parameter
8 value when registering for an auction at one computer system on a network, said at least one
9 membership duration parameter value specifying a cut-off time for use in automatically precluding
10 bids from selective bidders; and,

11   automatically precluding bids from users at other computer systems on the network during the
12 auction event if the one or more ~~bidders~~ bidders' respective actual membership duration ~~is less than~~
13 does not antedate the cut-off time specified by the at least one membership duration parameter value.

1 14.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the seller sets the
2 at least one membership duration parameter value by an item registration mechanism when
3 registering the auction at the one computer system.

1 15.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 13 wherein the setting of the
2 at least one membership duration parameter value and the registering for an auction event is achieved
3 by allowing the seller to use a graphical user interface.

1 16.   (Previously Presented) The computer program product of claim 15 further comprising a bid
2 monitoring mechanism that is configurable with the at least one membership duration parameter
3 value.

17 - 18.   (Cancelled)

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1   19.   (Currently Amended)   A computer network implemented method of processing an online

2   auction event in a multi-user networked environment, between a plurality of bidder client computer

3   systems, an internet service provider server computer system, and a seller at a client computer system,

4   comprising the steps of:

5   receiving at the server a request from a seller client computer system for the auction to sell a

6   good and/or service, the server comprising a main memory including: an item registration application

7   and a bid monitoring application; a processor, and database storage for identifying and tracking files

8   associated respectively with the seller and bidders;

9   receiving seller information at the server through the item registration application which

10 information is stored in the database storage ~~and,~~ said seller information including at least one

11 membership duration parameter value that is set by the seller ~~and which the,~~ said at least one

12 membership duration parameter value specifying a cut-off time ~~is used~~ for use in configuring the bid

13 monitoring application to automatically preclude bids from selective bidders; and,

14   monitoring submitted bids at the server from bidder clients by cross referencing the submitted

15 bids in accordance with the membership duration parameter value in the database for determining

16 automatically if the submitted bid is to be precluded from being considered in the auction event if the

17 one or more ~~bidders~~ bidders' respective actual membership duration ~~is less than~~ does not antedate the

18 cut-off time specified by the at least one membership duration parameter value.

20 - 25.   (Cancelled)